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Title: Kathy Yamaguchi Interview  
Narrator: Kathy Yamaguchi  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 18>**

NW: Well, sometimes, when I talk to survivors, I do it in English and other times, I talk in, in Japanese . . .

KY: Oh, you do it in, right.

NW: . . . as well, sometimes it kind of goes back and forth. And first their part of the interview might be in English and then, then after a while, it might be in Japanese, and I'm really struck by how personality seems to change, the first and then talking to . . .

KY: You can tell that?

NW: I can kind of tell. And I'm sure my personality seems to be . . .

KY: No, no, no.

NW: . . . different as well.

KY: We, I just found, you know, I, I, I go to a quality improvement meetings for our clinics, and there's a clinic in Chinatown that's totally, almost totally, Chinese and is Cantonese speaking.

NW: Oh, wow.

KY: And the medical director, who is, I, my guess is that English is not his first language. He's very American, but I think English was not his first language. And he was doing meetings with his staff, and he learned, he found out that when things were done in Chinese, his staff came up with many more ideas, innovations on how to change things. And they're all fluent, right? They're working, they've been working for years in English.

NW: Right, right, right.

KY: But he found out that there was so much richer, if it's . . . they can speak in Cantonese

NW: If it's in Chinese. Wow.

KY: Yeah, it's, it's very interesting, I know it's like how much we're missing, you know. We do a lot of, we use a lot of video translators or telephone interpreters with our patients.

NW: Oh, okay.

KY: We have a lot of, you know Asian patients, and Russian and Mongolian and . . .

NW: It must be very helpful then.

KY: Yeah, you need it.

NW: Yeah.

KY: Because we don't, the staff here don't have the time to interpret in the room, so we have to use the telephone or something.

NW: Right, right. Yeah, wow. That's very interesting.

KY: But it is. It's really interesting. So I, one of the things I like is the opportunity to get to know the doctors.

NW: Yeah, well it's a bit. It's about people meeting, I think.

KY: Yeah, yeah, it's meeting people, it's like yeah.

NW: . . . and without that, you can't really do anything like this, so. Thank you very much for your time.

KY: Yeah, it was fun.

NW: Is there anything that, what you feel like you didn't talk too much about that . . .

KY: Well, there are other people, I, I've gotten people who aren't Japanese that have helped me out on these weekends, and they all, you know, they really get, I don't know what the term is. They really like coming. They will ask me "When is the next, you know? When are you doing this again, I want to help." They want to help, because I think it's the, I think it's the personality of the survivors. They don't really, just like I keep saying, they're so gracious, and grateful . . .

NW: Right. Right.

KY: . . . and I think that seems to affect my friends who help out.

NW: So, doctors who are getting interested in, ah.

KY: Doctors and doctors, yeah. I've got all these doctors doing height and weight and blood pressures and they love, they love, these patients. You know, so.

NW: Well, that's very interesting. Well, I heard that, in, especially in America, there is a sort of an effort through organizations like Friends of Hibakusha to kind of, expand the definition of survivors. So, what irradiated populations. So it's not so you have to be the bomb survivors.

KY: Right, I mean it could be the downwinders and the, yeah. Right, right, right.

NW: Yeah, so, but, I don't know if that kind of personality carries over to the broadened definition of survivors. Yeah.

KY: No, I can't imagine, can't imagine. Yeah, I can't yeah. It would be interesting. Yeah, that would, nah, this is a special thing with the Japanese and the one, the one Korean guy that comes.

NW: Oh, yeah?

KY: There's one Korean man. Mr. Mark Hwang.

NW: Oh, Mark Hwang, yeah.

KY: Yeah. And did you, you know, this morning, did you meet Craig Lum?

NW: No, I didn't.

KY: He was, I think he went to the press conference, I'm looking forward to meeting him, he helped out decades ago, when he was a, he was a lab technician and now he's a doctor.

NW: Oh, wow.

KY: I haven't seen him for years. But he wants to work all weekend so I'm looking forward to working with him.

NW: Sure. Craig ?

KY: Lum. So, I think he's, he's Chinese, I don't know if he's got Japanese in him but I think he's just Chinese.

NW: Yeah, I think it's good that, it's not just for Japanese Americans . . .

KY: No it's not.

NW: But also, there are other Asian Americans getting interested in this.

KY: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

NW: Well . . .

KY: Are you gonna be around for the? You're gonna?

NW: Oh, absolutely, yeah, so, probably I will see you, and . . .

KY: Yeah, yeah.

NW: . . . I will be trying not to get in the, in anyone's way, because I understand that people are busy, running around, but I'm trying to just introduce myself to people who come see doctors and possibly I have a chance to get to know them, and talk with them.

KY: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

NW: So, I will be at the Saint Mary's tomorrow and possibly on Sunday, as well.

KY: Okay, good. Okay, good.

NW: So, I can see you there?

KY: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Saturday's chaotic, Sunday's much better.

NW: Great. Oh really?

KY: Yes, Sunday, every, by Sunday, things are little more organized and it's a little easier.

NW: Oh

KY: Yeah.

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